

Boat Race

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larly coached in sculling by Casey.

No date has been set yet for the race between Reese and Casey's son Mike.

But it's imminent. One doesn't let a challenge collect dust.

"I like to live dangerously," chuckled Reese, who's been rowing now for a bit over two years and took up sculling through Steve's influence.

"I'm still only a beginner by rowing standards," admitted Reese, a 6-1, 170-pounder who is almost as tall as Mike but gives away over 20 pounds to his opponent.

"I remember when I started," reflects Ron. "I fell out of everything."

But he's come a long way since then and days as a youngster when his sports tastes ran more to hockey and biking.

Long enough, figures Reese, who went to UMass Amherst and has worked as a carpenter for Bob Burns of the Greenhouse Restaurant in Cohasset, to take on the more experienced and bigger Mike Casey.

Reese has been rowing 10 to 15 miles a day since competition in the Cromwell Cup races in Philadelphia when he and the Casey-coached eight-oared shell turned the tables on a Coast Guard entry in the 2,000 meter race and won the gold medal in the national competition.

Before that, they competed in the New England on

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Worcester's Lake Quinsigamond and finished second. Who finished first? The Coast Guard eight they beat in Philly.

There's a big difference between rowing in multi-sculls and singles.

Steve, who's rowed them all, including five matches with Diamond Sculls champion Bob Pierce knows.

"A really good single sculler can beat an eight," declares Steve. "But only if he's really good."

Yeah, but can Ron beat son Mike is the question?

"He has a real good chance," concedes Steve, who isn't about to rule against son Mike. "Ron has a good chance to be a great sculler if he really works at it. He's tall and rangy and not too heavy. He has stamina from his cross country running."

In his competitive sculling days, Casey, who stands 6-3 and weighs 190 now, scaled about 203-205.

"They all thought wrestlers couldn't row because we were muscle-bound," Steve chuckles, but he proved different.

As tutor of both the principles, Casey isn't making any pre-race predictions.

Ron, though, says, "I really think I can beat Mike."

He's rowed eight-oared, double and single sculls. He complains that there isn't enough competitive racing. He'd like to see at least two races a week. But he's rowed enough to believe he's in good enough shape to take Mike.

The race will be on Straits Pond where Casey regularly tutors Ron and others.

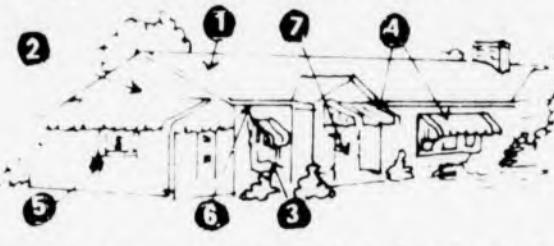
But at the moment, Casey's fresh out of boats.

"We may have to borrow one from Riverside or Cambridge Boat Club," says Steve.

But a race there'll be.

Nobody's about to challenge the Caseys and have the challenge go unanswered.

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